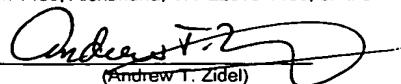


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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: April 29, 2004 Signature:


(Andrew T. Zidel)

Docket No.: INTECH 3.0-083
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Maldei et al.

Application No.: 10/619,884

Group Art Unit: 2823

Filed: July 15, 2003

Examiner: B. Kebede

For: METHOD TO IMPROVE BITLINE CONTACT
FORMATION USING A LINE MASK

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed April 2, 2004, setting forth a Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application. In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-27, drawn to methods of making semiconductor devices; or
- II. Claims 28-37, drawn to semiconductor devices.

The Examiner further required election between the following species within

Group I:

Species A: Claims 1-15.

Species B: Claims 16-27.

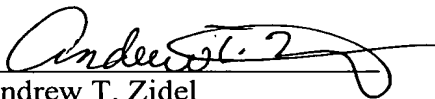
We note the Examiner has stated that claim 1 is generic. In response to the

Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect with traverse the invention of Group I, Species A, corresponding to claims 1-15. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications corresponding to the non-elected claims.

In the event any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: April 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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